

Myra lived her life according to the Jewish principle of "Tikkun Olam"—to repair the world—striving each day to make our community, our country, and our world a better place for the less fortunate. Myra was the absolute embodiment of Tikkun Olam, living according to its values of justice, compassion, and peace.

Myra was a community leader and philanthropist without equal. Whether it was through the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation, the Robert K. and Myra H. Kraft Foundation, the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, or her alma mater Brandeis University, Myra's tireless work gave a voice to victims, a stage for performing artists and a home to countless disadvantaged youth. Her love for Israel was rivaled only by her commitment to making Massachusetts and Boston beacons of social and cultural goodwill worldwide. She was guided by an incredibly strong moral compass and an unrelenting drive to help others.

Massachusetts has lost a hometown hero, and the Kraft family also has lost a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Kraft family and with all of those whose lives have been touched by Myra's formidable and gracious spirit. We mourn Myra's passing, while we know that her incredible legacy of acts of loving kindness will live on forever.

H.R. 2018, CLEAN WATER COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM ACT OF 2011

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2018, the so-called Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act. It would be far more accurate to title this legislation the "Dirty Water Act" due to the damage it would inflict on our nation's waters.

This legislation severely weakens the Clean Water Act by prohibiting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from challenging state water quality standards in cases when those standards threaten the quality of the nation's waters. Further, the bill removes the EPA's authority to protect water bodies and waterways from pollution resulting from mining, development and water resource projects. This unprecedented unraveling of federal authority would have very real and negative consequences for the country, especially my state of Minnesota.

Minnesota is known as the land of 10,000 lakes. It is the headwaters of the mighty Mississippi River and the longest shoreline of Lake Superior—the largest of the Great Lakes. Our quality of life is inexorably linked with the quality of our state's rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands. Minnesota's economy depends on clean water to support its multibillion dollar tourism and outdoor recreation industry, which sustains tens of thousands of jobs. In addition to the economy, responsible EPA regulation helps to protect the health of millions of Minnesotans who rely on the Mississippi River and other surface waters for their drinking water. Minnesota's strong commitment to clean water is best evidenced by passage of a state constitutional amendment in 2008 dedicating funding to protect and restore the

states' waters—the first of its kind in the nation.

H.R. 2018 undermines the ability of Minnesota or any other state to protect the quality of its waters. This legislation eliminates Clean Water Act protections that prevent states from setting lax environmental laws and weak enforcement policies that send pollution flowing over its borders into neighboring states. Minnesota's public health, economic vitality and quality of life should not be at the mercy of other states. H.R. 2018 is a serious threat to states' rights and demands a full and public debate. Unfortunately, House Republicans are rushing this highly controversial bill to the floor without holding even a single Committee hearing.

The Clean Water Act is one of our country's most successful environmental laws. For over forty years, Democrats, Independents and Republicans have worked together to protect and restore America's waters using the authorities in this law. Members of Congress today have a responsibility to protect this important legacy. H.R. 2018 is an unprecedented attempt to dismantle the Clean Water Act and return to the days when waterways in America were so polluted they caught fire.

H.R. 2018 is the latest in a series of Republican proposals that benefit polluters, not American families, communities or the vast majority of American businesses that follow the law. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation and put an end to the Republicans' dangerous policy of regulatory retreat.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL JROTC INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR JUSTIN BLUM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Justin Blum, of Florence, South Carolina. Lt. Col. Blum has been selected as the 2011–2012 National JROTC Instructor of the Year by the United States Army Cadet Command. It was because of Lt. Col. Blum's distinguished work and long history with the JROTC that he was bestowed this great honor.

JROTC is a citizenship program devoted to the moral, physical and educational uplift of American youth. Originally the JROTC was a source of enlisting recruits and officer candidates into the United States Military. It has now shed some of its early military content, but the program has retained its military structure and the resultant ability to infuse in its student cadets a sense of discipline and order. Lt. Col. Blum has been with the JROTC for 16 years now, following his 21 year tenure in the United States Army before retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

During his time with United States Army, protecting our country, he was also fighting another battle. Lt. Col. Blum was fighting ulcerative colitis and a diagnosis of early stage colon cancer. He did not let this deter him in life. Being the resolute person that Mr. Blum is, there was no doubt in his mind that he would be able to return to a full schedule. After the surgery, Lt. Col. Blum, used his struggle to inform others that no matter what

you are hit with, you can overcome if you put your mind to it.

Lt. Col. Blum is the recipient of the 2011 Tony Snow Public Service Award, presented by the Great Comebacks Program. This program raises awareness of quality of life issues for people with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, colorectal cancer and other diseases that can lead to ostomy surgery. Since receiving this award Mr. Blum has continued to work hard and his determination is shown again through being selected as the 2011–2012 JROTC National Instructor of the year. This is the second time Mr. Blum has received the JROTC National Instructor of the year award, also receiving the award in 2003. Being a two-time recipient, demonstrates his commitment and dedication to the JROTC, a program which is near and dear to my heart as a former educator and the grandfather of a JROTC student.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take the time and get to know JROTC instructors, like Lt. Col. Blum. Their devotion to uplifting American youth is worth our time and help. These instructors motto is, "Instruct Young People to be Better Citizens." With this dictum we see the uplifting manner of the JROTC and why the instructors are such an influential part of America's youth. Please join me in congratulating Lt. Col. Justin Blum of Florence, S.C. for being chosen as the JROTC National Instructor of the year from a group of amazing individuals who are changing the lives of scores of young people every day.

GOP WOMEN SPECIAL ORDER

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, our nation's budget is out of control. Two years ago, our nation experienced our first trillion dollar Federal budget deficit. Last year, we experienced our second trillion dollar deficit.

This year, our annual deficit is projected to reach over \$1.6 trillion—the largest in history. We are spending more than we can afford and in the process saddling future generations with a grim economic future. This is unacceptable.

It is also why my colleagues and I are here this evening. As women, we know the importance of creating and sticking to a budget.

The finances of many households are run by women.

We know that a family cannot wildly spend beyond its means. And yet this is what our government is doing on a daily basis.

Our government has acted recklessly with our financial security and prosperity. Just as our families and neighbors have had to tighten our belts during this recession, the Federal government must do the same.

Women have to juggle various household necessities while still remaining within their budget constraints. This is why Republican women support a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget to help reign in Federal spending.

It will help us start to get our fiscal house in order. A constitutional amendment will help ensure the future stability and solvency of our economy. Our grandchildren deserve nothing less.